

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-11, 19 and 20 are pending in the present application. Claims 2-11, 19, and 20 are amended and Claims 1 and 12-15 are canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 14, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Fujiwara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,560,077 B2, herein “Fujiwara”); Claims 12, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fujiwara; and Claims 2-11 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

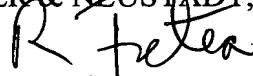
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, dependent Claims 2-11 have been rewritten in independent form and it is believed that these claims are in condition for allowance. Further, Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of Claim 6. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, it is believed that the outstanding rejections on the merits are moot.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)
I:\ATTY\RF\24S\242589US\242589US-AM.DOC

Remus F. Fetea, Ph.D.
Registration No. 59,140